REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 18-25, and 30-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 21, 22, and 24 have been amended.

All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,088,711 to Fein et al. ("Fein"). The applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

1.   Amendments

Claims 1, 2, 4, 21, 22, and 24 have been amended to return "fixed position" to "position" in the claims. The word "fixed" was added by amendment in a previous response and is being removed because the Examiner questions the support for the limitation and has effectively read it out of the claim. This places the application in better condition for appeal.

2.   Response to Rejections under Section 103

Claim 1 requires "partitioning the formatted text into a plurality of groups of words," "assigning an element . . . to each of two or more groups . . . of words," and "deriving an element style for the assigned element." The style (be it a character style or a layout style) is derived from the font or text properties in or of the two or more groups of words to which the element is assigned. Fein does not partition text into a plurality of groups of words, assign an element to two or more of the groups of words, and derive a style for the element based on the two or more groups of words. [4:44-67; 12:64-13:14; 9:54-10:10] The Examiner states that a paragraph in Fein includes two or more groups of words and that a style can be defined for the paragraph. While Fein's paragraph may include several words that could be grouped, Fein does not perform the steps of partitioning the paragraph into a plurality of groups of words, assigning an element to each of the two or more of the groups of words, and then deriving a style from the two or more groups of words. Rather, Fein treats a paragraph as a single group of words to define a style for it. Therefore, Fein does not anticipate claim 1 by defining a style for a paragraph.

In addition, claim 1 requires that the style be derived "after the element is assigned to each of two or more groups of words." This feature is not found in Fein, where each style is defined as soon as an element is assigned to a single paragraph. [4:44-67; 12:64-13:14; 9:54-

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10:10] While it is true that a style defined in Fein can be applied to multiple paragraphs, Fein does not anticipate claim 1 by this action. A style already has been defined before Fein assigns the style to a second paragraph. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is allowable over Fein.

Claims 2-15 and 18-20 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are allowable for at least that reason.

Claim 21 is a computer program product claim that includes limitations corresponding to those of claim 1. Claims 22-25 and 30-34 depend directly or indirectly from claim 21, and are allowable for at least that reason.

3.   Conclusion

The applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance, and asks that all claims be allowed. The applicant believes that no fee is due with the present reply. If, however, there are charges or credits, please apply them to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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